

the ranking member, as we have comity, but we will take up the resolution, look to pass it out, and then work with you to make sure it passes to the floor.

Mr. WYDEN. Would the Senator just yield very briefly?

Mr. MENENDEZ. Sure.

Mr. WYDEN. I thank my colleague. I understand full well because between the Foreign Relations Committee and the Finance Committee, we have these kinds of challenges very, very frequently. I very much appreciate working with my colleague and look forward to moving this early next year.

Mr. MENENDEZ. And because of that, I object at this point.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

IMMIGRATION

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. President, I rise today as border communities in Arizona and across our country are in complete crisis. This crisis is not new. It is one that has progressively worsened year after year, administration after administration, due to the Federal Government's repeated failures to address our broken border and immigration system.

As a native Arizonan, I have seen firsthand how these failures fall squarely on the shoulders of border States, risking the safety of our communities and endangering the lives of migrants themselves.

Right now, we are experiencing a dangerous tipping point. The combination of an insecure border, an overworked and underresourced Border Patrol and protection force, and never-before-seen levels of illegal immigration, asylum seekers, and coordinated smuggling efforts have completely ruined an already broken system.

To make matters worse, title 42, the public health order that stops some migrants from entering our country, may soon expire, allowing thousands of migrants to enter Arizona, Texas, and other border States without the proper procedures, plans, or infrastructure in place.

Let me be clear. This is a humanitarian and security nightmare. Already, our border towns can barely keep up with the demand from the overwhelming levels of immigration. In San Luis, a small community of roughly 37,000 people right on the Arizona-Mexico border, the fire chief recently told us that three of his five ambulances are used solely to care for migrants in need, leaving only two ambu-

lances for the entire local community on any given night. The city of Tucson has already accepted over 15 percent of its total population just in migrant releases since April of this year. In Yuma, the threat of street releases persists every single day, including today.

With thousands of migrants coming to our border and seeking asylum, our overwhelmed Border Patrol agents are now additionally tasked with processing asylum seekers, taking the agents away from their important work of patrolling the border, apprehending illegal crossers, and stopping cartels, drugs, and smugglers. The consequences are plain to see. The mayor of San Luis even recently reported seeing migrants traveling along inner-city highways because Border Patrol was too overwhelmed to apprehend them closer to the border.

While towns like San Luis, humanitarian organizations across our State, and our brave women and men in blue, green, and brown shoulder the burden of a failed system, Washington continues to politicize solutions. Politicians are retreating to their partisan corners instead of examining the problem for what it is, not what one party or the other party wishes it was, and focusing on finding meaningful solutions. Some refuse to acknowledge the need for increased security measures at all, while others have a singular view of what kind of security is sufficient. Some want to welcome all who come to the border into our country, while others want to keep everyone out, and a few want to defund the very agencies that are tasked with enforcing our immigration laws or underfund the very humanitarian organizations that provide vital services and care for the asylum seekers our country has always pledged to help.

As someone who has seen all the challenges at our border my entire life, I know these are all false choices. That is why I rejected the partisan echo chamber and partnered with my good friend Senator THOM TILLIS on a bipartisan proposal to help solve some of the real problems our border communities and immigration system continue to face. Just as we have on a number of complex issues—from gun violence to marriage equality and religious freedom—we focused on our shared values and shared goals. Before we could tackle the issue of a backlogged asylum process, employment visas, or the status of undocumented residents, we knew we had to focus first on securing the border.

A problem as big as our broken border needs a smart, comprehensive solution, and that solution starts by investing in the brave men and women who keep our border safe. A robust, well-trained, and well-resourced Border Patrol, Office of Field Operations, and Air and Marine Operations force are critical to secure the border, to keep our communities safe, and to ensure the fair and humane treatment of migrants. Senator TILLIS and I focused on

boosting pay, increasing force sizes, and providing our agents and officers the equipment and the technology they need to do their jobs safely and efficiently.

Beyond supporting our men and women in blue, green, and brown, we are committed to reasserting control of our border. Senator TILLIS and I understand that to secure our border, we need physical barriers where they make sense but that relying only on physical barriers is a 17th-century answer to a 21st-century problem. The fact is, the majority of illegal drugs seized coming into our country arrive through our ports of entry.

This past October, our Office of Field Operations officers reported a 73-percent increase in fentanyl seizures compared with just 1 year ago.

And just 2 weeks ago, the Office of Field Operations officers at the Nogales Port of Entry seized over 1.5 million fentanyl pills in less than 5 days. A wall alone can't stop these drugs from finding a way into our country and killing our friends, our neighbors, and our loved ones.

We must supplement security barriers with innovative technology solutions, we must boost our border protection and patrol forces, and we must update the policies governing our border to meet the moment.

For years, our asylum system has represented the promise of America—welcoming those fleeing persecution to find freedom and safety. Today, though, our asylum system is broken, our Border Patrol isn't able to do their jobs and catch dangerous criminals, and our border communities cannot keep up.

In order to uphold the promise of protection and freedom and ensure that our asylum system works for those who seek to serve, we must acknowledge that the status quo is no longer functional. Our immigration courts and asylum officers remain completely backlogged, with simple cases taking years to resolve, sending a message that America does not take this process seriously and that our system can be manipulated.

In Arizona, the impact is clear. Small towns along our border like San Luis, Nogales, Naco, Yuma, and Ajo are overwhelmed daily, struggling to care for their own residents while managing an increasing influx of hundreds of migrants every day.

With our asylum system broken, more migrants make the arduous and often devastating journey to our border. When they arrive, they risk not being able to access the care and medical attention they need.

Now, Arizona's humanitarian organizations do incredible work. They go above and beyond every day to avoid street releases and to ensure that migrants are treated fairly. But they can only do so much. For example, the main humanitarian organization in Tucson, Casa Alitas, has been operating over capacity for over a month,